Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting an auction for a sponsor, comprising:

receiving score computation information, at an auction system computer, for computing respective composite scores for respective bids submitted to the auction, the score computation information for computing a composite score comprising:

a selection of a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;

a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and

a weight specified for each of the selected categories;

receiving a bid from one or more participants, the bid including bid information corresponding to the selected categories;

calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the bid information;

determining the composite score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

identifying the bid having the highest composite score,

wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor, and

wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor,

wherein the step of receiving a bid from one or more participants comprises:

receiving values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is

submitted;

calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the received values;

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determining the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

displaying the composite score to the participant from which the values were received before the bid is submitted.

- 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: receiving a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.
- 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising: sending a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.
- 4-5. (Cancelled)
- 6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.
- (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: notifying the participant having the bid identified as having the highest composite score.
- 8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.
- 9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the calculating of a weighted value for each one of the selected categories comprises:

scaling the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and

adjusting the scaled values with the weight specified for each of the selected categories.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the determining of the composite score further includes summing the adjusted values.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having program code recorded thereon that is operable on a computer system for conducting an auction for a sponsor, the program code on the computer readable medium, when executed on a computer system, configured to:

receive score computation information for computing respective composite scores for respective bids submitted to the auction, the score computation information for computing a composite score comprising:

a selection of at least a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;

a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and a weight specified for each of the selected categories;

receive a bid from one or more participants, the bid including bid information corresponding to the selected categories;

calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the bid information in the bid;

determine the composite score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

identify the bid having the highest composite score,

wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor, and

wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor.

wherein receive a bid from one or more participants comprises:

receive values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;

calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the received values;

determine a the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

display the composite score to the participant from which the values were received before the bid is submitted.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, further configured to:

receive a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 14, further configured to:

send a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

16-17. (Cancelled)

- 18. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.
- 19. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, further configured to:

notify the participant having the bid identified as having the highest composite score.

- 20. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.
- 21. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.
- 22. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 21, further configured to:

scale the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and

adjust the scaled values with the weight specified for each of the selected categories.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 22, further configured to:

sum the adjusted values.

- 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Currently Amended) A window in a graphical user interface of a computer of a participant in an auction, comprising:

an auction window, displayed on the graphical user interface of the computer of the participant, operable to display information describing the content of the auction as provided by a sponsor of the auction;

a composite score window operable to display at least two of a plurality of categories selected as evaluation criteria for a bid, a value entered for each of the selected categories, and a composite score calculated according to the values entered for each of the selected categories, parameters set for each of the selected categories, and a weight specified for each of the selected categories, wherein the composite score is calculated based on the respective

weight for each of the selected categories and a value provided by the sponsor of the auction that relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor,

wherein the composite score is displayed to the participant before the values are submitted to the auction.

- 26. (Previously Presented) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display an indication of the weight specified for each of the selected categories.
- 27. (Previously Presented) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display a composite score corresponding to a highest calculated composite score and a composite score corresponding to values most recently submitted by a participant of the auction.
 - 28. (Cancelled)